

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

Washington, D.C. 20593-0001
Staff Symbol:
Phone:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

U. S. COAST GUARD

STATEMENT OF ADMIRAL PAUL A. YOST, JR.

BEFORE THE

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

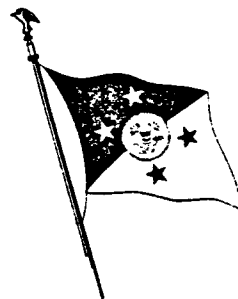
FOR

FY 1991 BUDGET

10 MAY 1990



Admiral Paul A. Yost, Jr. Commandant United States Coast Guard



Admiral Paul Alexander Yost, Jr. became the 18th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard on May 30, 1986. He was nominated to that position while serving as Commander Atlantic Area, Commander Maritime Defense Zone Atlantic and Commander Third Coast Guard District in New York City where he was assigned in 1984.

In these roles, the Admiral was responsible for Coast Guard operations in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico including drug interdiction, maritime law enforcement and search and rescue, as well as maritime coastal defense under the authority of the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet, United States Navy. Prior to his Third District assignment, Admiral Yost was Chief of Staff at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington for three years, where he managed planning, programming and budgeting for the service. He was promoted to flag rank in 1978 and served as Eighth District Commander in New Orleans for three years.



Admiral Yost's management and operational positions included Chief of Staff and Chief of Operations for Seventeenth Coast Guard District in Alaska in 1975 and Commander Task Group 115.3, a combat command in Vietnam, in 1969. In addition, he served as Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation and as an Alternate Delegate on the U.S. Law of the Sea Delegation. Admiral Yost was Captain of the Port, Seattle, Washington in 1974, Special Assistant to the Chief Counsel, Coast Guard Headquarters in 1972 and Chief, Bridge Branch, Aids to Navigation Division, Headquarters in 1970. Seagoing duty included command of the Coast Guard Cutter RESOLUTE in San Francisco, California in 1966.

Admiral Yost was graduated from the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island in 1964. He received master's degrees in international affairs from George Washington University in 1964 and in mechanical engineering from the University of Connecticut in 1959. He also completed course work toward a master's degree in business administration. Admiral Yost received a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut in 1951.

The Commandant's awards include two Distinguished Service Medals, Silver Star, Legion of Merit with combat "V" and a gold star, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Korean Service Medal and United Nations Service Medal. He also received the Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star (RVN), Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Distinguished Service Medal (RVN).

A native of St. Petersburg, Florida, Admiral Yost is active in church, school and community affairs. He was awarded the Silver Beaver Award by the Boys Scouts of America.

Admiral Yost is married to the former Jan Worth of Wakefield, Massachusetts. Mrs. Yost earned a degree in communications from the University of Maryland. They have five children: Linda, Paul III, David, Lisa and Christopher. The Yosts reside in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
U. S. COAST GUARD
STATEMENT OF ADMIRAL PAUL A. YOST, JR.
ON THE FISCAL YEAR 1991 BUDGET REQUEST
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATION
UNITED STATES SENATE
MAY 10, 1990

GOOD MORNING, MR. CHAIRMAN. I AM PLEASED TO APPEAR BEFORE THIS DISTINGUISHED SUBCOMMITTEE TODAY TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE COAST GUARD'S FISCAL YEAR 1991 BUDGET REQUEST.

ACCOMPANYING ME TODAY ARE THE CHIEF OF THE PROGRAMS DIVISION, CAPTAIN THOMPSON, AND THE CHIEF OF THE BUDGET DIVISION, CAPTAIN SPADE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, ON BEHALF OF COAST GUARD MEN AND WOMEN SERVICEWIDE, I THANK YOU AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR SUBCOMMITTEE FOR YOUR EFFORTS AND STRONG SUPPORT WHICH WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN OBTAINING FUNDING FOR THE COAST GUARD IN FISCAL YEAR 1990. IT PERMITS US TO MAINTAIN FULL OPERATIONS AND STILL PRESS FORWARD WITH CRITICAL REPLACEMENTS IN OUR CAPITAL PLANT AND OTHER IMPORTANT INITIATIVES.

AS MY COAST GUARD CAREER AND TENURE AS COMMANDANT COME TO A CLOSE, I VIEW WITH PRIDE THIS EFFICIENT, FLEXIBLE, AND DISCIPLINED ORGANIZATION WHICH IS ENTERING ITS THIRD CENTURY OF PROUD SERVICE TO THE NATION. FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS THE COAST GUARD AND ITS ORGANIZATIONAL ANCESTORS HAVE DEFENDED AND PROTECTED LIVES, PROPERTY AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE MARITIME ENVIRONMENT, ENFORCED LAWS, AND PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE DEFENSE OF OUR COUNTRY. THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY, THE COAST GUARD HAS DEMONSTRATED A REMARKABLE FLEXIBILITY IN MEETING CHANGING NATIONAL NEEDS AND PRIORITIES.

WE ARE A HUMANITARIAN SERVICE, AND IN RECENT YEARS, HAVE BEEN CALLED THE "GUARDIANS OF THE SEA." THAT LABEL IS APPROPRIATE, CONSIDERING OUR MANY MISSIONS WHICH SHARE THE COMMON THREAD OF PROTECTING LIVES, PROPERTY AND NATIONAL RESOURCES. THESE MISSIONS INCLUDE: PROTECTING LIVES AND PROPERTY THROUGH THE SEARCH & RESCUE AND MARITIME SAFETY PROGRAMS; GUARDING OUR MARITIME BORDERS AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS AND OTHER CONTRABAND; ENFORCING THE CONSERVATION OF OCEAN FISHERIES; SUPPORTING NATIONAL SECURITY, SCIENTIFIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS IN THE POLAR REGIONS; AND PREVENTING--AND IF NECESSARY, MITIGATING-- DAMAGE TO OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT. IN ADDITION, COAST GUARD MISSIONS PROMOTE A SAFE AND EFFICIENT MARITIME LINK TO GLOBAL AND MANY DOMESTIC MARKETS.

OUR VARIOUS PEACETIME ROLES ALSO PROVIDE A READY FORCE-IN-BEING OF TRAINED PERSONNEL, VESSELS, AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT TO RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO NATIONAL SECURITY NEEDS, IN THE EVENT OF WAR OR NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COAST GUARD ARE PERHAPS BEST EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES MODEL THEIR OWN NAVAL OR COAST GUARD FORCES AFTER OUR SERVICE. WE ARE WIDELY IN DEMAND TO SHARE OUR OPERATIONAL EXPERTISE AND TRAINING. I SEE OUR ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA GROWING IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

IN ORDER TO CONTINUE OUR MULTI-MISSION SERVICE TO THIS NATION AND OTHERS, WE MUST BE FUNDED TO SUPPORT ONGOING LEVELS OF OPERATIONS, ADDRESS CHANGING NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND PROVIDE FOR REPLACEMENT OF CAPITAL ASSETS AS THEY REACH THE END OF THEIR

SERVICE LIVES.

AS YOU KNOW, THE U.S. COAST GUARD IS ONE OF THE NATION'S FIVE ARMED FORCES. CHANGING NATIONAL DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS BROUGHT ABOUT BY EVENTS IN EUROPE WILL INCREASE THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A FORCE-IN-BEING TO PERFORM THE MISSIONS OF A PEACETIME COAST GUARD WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, PROVIDING DEFENSE CAPABILITY. IN ADDITION, NATIONAL PRIORITIES--SUCH AS THE WAR ON DRUGS AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT--REQUIRE MODEST INCREASES IN FUNDING FOR THE COAST GUARD.

THE FISCAL YEAR 1991 TOTAL BUDGET AUTHORITY REQUEST REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF LESS THAN SIX PER CENT OVER THE LEVEL ENACTED FOR FY 1990. THE BULK OF THE REQUEST IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO COST OF LIVING AND OTHER BUILT-IN CHANGES IN THE OPERATING EXPENSES APPROPRIATION, CONTINUATION OF ONGOING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, AND PROGRESS TOWARD A LONG-RANGE GOAL TO BRING OUR SELECTED RESERVE UP TO REQUIRED STRENGTH. ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF THE REQUEST FUNDS NEW INITIATIVES IN RESPONSE TO THESE NATIONAL PRIORITIES.

BUDGET TOTALS

THE TOTAL BUDGET AUTHORITY WE ARE REQUESTING FROM THIS COMMITTEE IS \$3,393.5 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF \$194 MILLION OVER THE AMOUNT ENACTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 1990 INCLUDING SUPPORT IN KIND FROM DOD. AS ALWAYS, THE LARGEST PORTION OF THE TOTAL REQUEST IS FOR OPERATING EXPENSES (OE). THIS \$2,391.4 MILLION REPRESENTS 70.5 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL REQUEST; THE OE APPROPRIATION FUNDS THE SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR OUR PERSONNEL, AND THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF COAST GUARD SHIPS, AIRCRAFT AND SHORE FACILITIES.

OUR MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ARE FUNDED BY THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS (AC&I) APPROPRIATION. OUR FISCAL YEAR 1991 AC&I REQUEST OF \$419.5 MILLION IS 12.3 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL REQUEST.

THE \$78.9 MILLION REQUESTED FOR RESERVE TRAINING WILL SUPPORT A SELECTED RESERVE STRENGTH OF 12,700, AN INCREASE OF 650 OVER THE ESTIMATED FISCAL YEAR 1990 YEAR-END STRENGTH.

WE ARE REQUESTING \$23 MILLION FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION; THIS FUNDING WILL DEVELOP HARDWARE, PROCEDURES AND SYSTEMS TO MEET FUTURE REQUIREMENTS, AND IMPROVE THE EXECUTION OF EXISTING COAST GUARD MISSIONS.

UNDER CURRENT LAW, OUR REQUEST IDENTIFIES \$6.4 MILLION AS NEEDED TO FUND ALTERATION OF THREE BRIDGES WHICH HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE OBSTRUCTIONS TO MARINE NAVIGATION. WHILE THE BUDGET PROPOSES TO TRANSFER THE PROGRAM, CONGRESS HAS NOT YET APPROVED THE TRANSFER OF THE BRIDGE ALTERATION PROGRAM TO THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS. AS LONG AS THE COAST GUARD RETAINS THE BRIDGE PROGRAM, THESE FUNDS WILL BE REQUIRED IN THE COAST GUARD BUDGET.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STATES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A COORDINATED NATIONAL RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY PROGRAM, WE ARE ASKING THAT \$30 MILLION BE APPROPRIATED TO THE BOAT SAFETY ACCOUNT.

OUR REQUEST FOR \$437.3 MILLION IN THE RETIRED PAY APPROPRIATION WILL FUND ANNUITIES AND MEDICAL ENTITLEMENTS FOR RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL, THEIR DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, OUR REQUEST INCLUDES FUNDS FOR A SEPARATE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION APPROPRIATION,

WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1989. THIS REQUEST FOR \$7 MILLION IS NEEDED FOR THE COAST GUARD TO CARRY OUT ITS ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION RESPONSIBILITIES RESULTING FROM THE OPERATION OF FORMER AND CURRENT COAST GUARD FACILITIES. PRIOR TO THE FISCAL YEAR 1991 REQUEST, ACTIVITIES OF THIS NATURE WERE INCLUDED IN THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS APPROPRIATION.

OVERALL, OUR REQUEST IS FOR A LEVEL OF 38,421 MILITARY AND 5,702 CIVILIAN FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS.

OPERATING EXPENSES

WE ARE REQUESTING A \$181 MILLION INCREASE IN OUR OPERATING EXPENSES APPROPRIATION, TO A LEVEL OF \$2,391.4 MILLION. PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS AND BUILT-IN-CHANGES SUCH AS PAY RAISE ANNUALIZATION, COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT AND GSA RENT INCREASE ACCOUNT FOR \$126 MILLION (70 PER CENT) OF THE INCREASE.

TWENTY PER CENT, OR \$36 MILLION, OF THE INCREASE IS TO MAINTAIN AND UPGRADE CERTAIN COAST GUARD ASSETS. INCLUDED IN THIS CATEGORY ARE HEALTH CARE COST INCREASES IN EXCESS OF THE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT; ESTABLISHMENT OF A SHIPBOARD CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO IMPROVE FLEET READINESS; SUSTAINING OUR LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PROTECTING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT; AND MUCH-NEEDED REHABILITATION OF DETERIORATED SHORE FACILITIES.

THE REMAINING 10 PER CENT OF THE OE INCREASE (\$19 MILLION) IS REQUESTED TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN NEW CAPITAL ASSETS SUCH AS THE AIR FACILITY IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA; HH-60J MEDIUM

RANGE RECOVERY HELICOPTERS; NEW COASTAL SMALL-BOAT STATIONS; AND LAND-BASED AEROSTATS.

OUR FISCAL YEAR 1991 REQUEST INCLUDES, AS PART OF THE FUNDING BASE, \$300 MILLION RECEIVED FROM THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION IN FISCAL YEAR 1990 (\$160 MILLION CASH TRANSFER, AND \$140 MILLION SUPPORT-IN-KIND). AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THESE FUNDS WHICH CONGRESS PROVIDED TO THE COAST GUARD VIA DOD SOURCES WERE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL. WITHOUT THEM, WE SIMPLY COULDN'T HAVE MAINTAINED OPERATIONS ANYWHERE NEAR REQUIRED LEVELS. WHILE I AM GRATEFUL TO OUR SUPPORTERS IN CONGRESS WHO HAVE HELPED KEEP US IN BUSINESS BY BRINGING ABOUT THESE TRANSFERS, I REITERATE MY POSITION--THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION--THAT THE COAST GUARD SHOULD BE FULLY FUNDED WITHIN THE TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATION. I CONSIDER IT CRITICAL THAT THE ENTIRE COAST GUARD BUDGET BE ACCOUNTED FOR IN FUNCTION 400, IN FISCAL YEAR 1991 AND THEREAFTER.

IN SUMMARY, OUR OPERATING EXPENSES BUDGET REQUEST ALLOWS US TO CONTINUE PERFORMING OUR TRADITIONAL MISSIONS AT CURRENT LEVELS. MINIMAL INCREASES ARE REQUESTED TO SUPPORT ADDED EMPHASIS IN CERTAIN KEY MISSION AREAS OR TO OPERATE NEWLY-ACQUIRED CAPITAL ASSETS.

ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS (AC&I)

THE FISCAL YEAR 1991 AC&I BUDGET REQUEST IS ONCE AGAIN LARGELY COMPRISED OF MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS TO ACQUIRE REPLACEMENTS, OR IMPROVE EXISTING CAPITAL ASSETS; A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PLACED ON IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF OUR DETERIORATING SHORE

PLANT. WHERE POSSIBLE, MAJOR PROJECTS ARE PHASED TO SPREAD COSTS OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS. MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS IN THE FY91 REQUEST INCLUDE THE FLEET RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION (FRAM) PROGRAM FOR 378-FOOT CUTTERS, THE BUOY TENDER REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS, RENOVATION PROGRAMS FOR 210-FOOT CUTTERS AND BUOY TENDERS, THE MOTOR LIFEBOAT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM, PROCUREMENT OF HH-60J HELICOPTERS, AND CONSTRUCTION OF SORELY NEEDED FAMILY HOUSING UNITS.

NEW PROJECT STARTS FOR FY 1991 ACCOUNT FOR \$125 MILLION, OR 29 PER CENT OF THE AC&I REQUEST. MANY OF THESE REPRESENT REPLACEMENT, RENOVATION OR UPGRADING OF EXISTING ASSETS. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THESE INCLUDE NEW BUOY BOATS, REPLACEMENT HELICOPTERS FOR DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT, INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS, AND NEW OR IMPROVED SEARCH AND RESCUE STATIONS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS. OTHER PROJECTS, SUCH AS A VESSEL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM, CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT, THE NEW AIR FACILITY IN CHARLESTON, AND POLLUTION STRIKE TEAM EQUIPMENT, HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN RESPONSE TO IDENTIFIED NEEDS OR REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH BY CONGRESS.

FINALLY, THE AC&I BUDGET INCLUDES A SMALL AMOUNT FOR PROJECT SUPPORT EXPENSES AND MINOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ON WATERWAYS AND AT SHORE FACILITIES COAST GUARD-WIDE.

THIS AC&I REQUEST IS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THE AVERAGE ANNUAL AC&I FUNDING APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS. THIS IS BECAUSE MUCH OF THE COAST GUARD'S AC&I FUNDING DURING THIS PERIOD CAME FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, PARTICULARLY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

ADDITIONALLY, THE POLAR ICEBREAKER REPLACEMENT, A VERY COSTLY SINGLE LINE-ITEM, WAS FUNDED FROM THE DOD APPROPRIATION IN FISCAL YEAR 1990; FUNDING FOR THAT ONE SHIP WAS NEARLY AS MUCH AS THE TOTAL AC&I FUNDING IN THE COAST GUARD'S APPROPRIATION. THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET WILL MEET OUR AC&I NEEDS FOR FY 1991. AS CERTAIN OF OUR NEW CAPITAL PROJECTS--SUCH AS THE BUOY TENDER AND PATROL BOAT REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS--ARE FURTHER DEVELOPED IN FUTURE YEARS, WE CAN EXPECT OUR AC&I FUNDING REQUIREMENTS TO INCREASE.

RESERVE TRAINING

THE COAST GUARD RESERVE PROVIDES TRAINED PERSONNEL FOR ACTIVE DUTY IN THE COAST GUARD IN TIME OF ARMED CONFLICT, NATIONAL EMERGENCY, OR NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS. AS PART OF THEIR TRAINING TO MEET THESE RESPONSIBILITIES, RESERVISTS SUPPORT THE ACTIVE DUTY FORCE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF PEACETIME MISSIONS, DURING NORMAL AND PEAK PERIODS OF OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS IN TIMES OF DOMESTIC EMERGENCIES. FOR EXAMPLE, RESERVISTS MADE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COAST GUARD'S RESPONSE TO THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL, HURRICANE HUGO, AND THE SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE. THE FISCAL YEAR 1991 REQUESTED INCREASE FOR RESERVE OF \$7 MILLION INCLUDES \$4 MILLION TO INCREASE THE SELECTED RESERVE FORCE SIZE TO 12,700. THIS LEVEL WILL ALLOW THE RESERVE TO MEET 64 PER CENT OF ITS MINIMUM MOBILIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

OIL SPILL LEGISLATION

THE COMPREHENSIVE OIL SPILL LEGISLATION CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION IN CONGRESS APPEARS CERTAIN TO ASSIGN SIGNIFICANT NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS TO THE COAST GUARD. WHILE

DEVELOPING THE FISCAL YEAR 1991 BUDGET REQUEST, WE ANTICIPATED THAT AN OIL SPILL BILL WOULD BE A TOP CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITY, AND INCLUDED NEW LINE ITEMS TALLING \$12.6 MILLION AS A "PLACE HOLDER" FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. HOWEVER, THIS AMOUNT REFLECTS ONLY A FRACTION OF THE FUNDING NEEDED TO CARRY OUT THE TASKS DESCRIBED IN EITHER THE HOUSE OR SENATE VERSION OF THE BILL. THE COAST GUARD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THESE NEW TASKS WITHOUT NEW FUNDING AND ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.

SUMMARY

WE IN THE COAST GUARD ARE EAGER TO BEGIN OUR THIRD CENTURY OF SERVICE TO AMERICA, FULFILLING OUR ROLE AS "GUARDIANS OF THE SEA" BY ENSURING SAFETY OF LIVES AT SEA, COMBATTING THE INFLUX OF ILLEGAL DRUGS, PROTECTING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT, CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL SECURITY, AND DOING WHATEVER ELSE MAY BE NECESSARY AS THE NATION'S PRINCIPAL PEACETIME MARITIME OPERATING AGENCY. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN OUR MULTI-MISSION CAPABILITIES AND RESPOND TO THE CHANGING PRIORITIES OF TODAY AND TOMORROW, THE COAST GUARD MUST HAVE THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT, PEOPLE, TRAINING AND OPERATING FUNDS. THIS BUDGET REQUEST WILL MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT LEVEL OF OPERATIONS, AND ALLOW THE FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO NEW AND EMERGING PRIORITIES.

I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN OBTAINING FULL FUNDING FOR THE COAST GUARD.

I WILL BE HAPPY TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS YOU OR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE MIGHT HAVE.